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Press Release

Press Release Announcement -- April 22, 2003 -- For Immediate Use

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March Milk Production in Pennsylvania Down 1.2 Percent

HARRISBURG --- Milk production in Pennsylvania during March 2003 totaled 936 million pounds, 1.2 percent below last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 585,000 head, down 3,000 head from February, but 4,000 head more than March 2002. Production per cow averaged 1,600 pounds in March, 170 pounds more than February, but 30 pounds less than March 2002.

Milk production in the 20 states surveyed during March 2003 totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from production in these same states in March 2002. February revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from February 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major states averaged 7.81 million head, 67,000 head more than March 2002, and 2,000 head more than February 2003.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,664 pounds for March, 10 pounds above March of last year.

The January-March quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 43.0 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.16 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.